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Dear Colleagues

It was great seeing so many of you at the recent KAACE-KYAE Institute. We had sessions on instructional strategies as well as civic engagement. The Institute was a great way for both of our organizations to highlight our respective roles and strengths – KAACE being the leader in the state for adult education advocacy issues and KYAE being the leader for adult education programs and professional development.

This Institute was a new joint venture for KAACE and KYAE. The first day focused on instructional strategies and the second day's agenda concentrated on civic engagement to help all of us develop the knowledge base and skills for being adult education advocates. As we announced earlier, the Council on Postsecondary Education approved a budget recommendation that includes a funding increase for local Kentucky Adult Education programs as part of the Council's *number one funding priority*.

The recommendation includes a \$4 million increase for the 2008-10 biennium. If enacted by the legislature and signed by the Governor, this would raise the state general fund appropriation for Kentucky Adult Education from \$25 million in the current year to \$29 million in FY2009-2010. It's vitally important that we all become strong advocates for adult education and the funding increase. Your legislators need to know the importance of supporting adult education through this budget increase.

We are heading into the legislative session where CPE, KYAE and KAACE will be strongly advocating for the adult education budget increase. KAACE is planning a legislative luncheon for February 19, and you will receive more information soon. As we have talked before, an important part of any request for additional funds is demonstrating performance and accountability – two concepts that strongly resonate with legislators who expect us to help their constituents and be good stewards of public funds. It's very important for your program to enter *all* student data in a timely manner so that KYAE can tell legislators about our successes and also analyze current-year data

in preparation for the annual performance measure negotiations with the Office of Vocational and Adult Education.

Most important, I want to thank all of you for having such a positive outlook on the future of Kentucky Adult Education. We have received many, many positive comments about our new focus on quality, and it's obvious that you have the welfare of your students and the betterment of the Commonwealth foremost in your minds. These are the goals we all share.

From all of us at KYAE, have a very safe and happy holiday season. We're looking forward to a very successful 2008 for our students, our programs and our Commonwealth!

Sincerely,

Sarah Hindman Hawker

Important information on KYAE Web site

Please remember to visit KYAE's [Web site](#) frequently to see the latest announcements about adult education budgets, contracting issues, timelines, grant information, policy developments and upcoming events.

Workforce alliance funds available

KYAE has Workforce Alliance funds available for workforce education projects. These funds are provided to accommodate employer requests and facilitate good local partnerships. Providers may apply [online](#) for Workforce Alliance grants.

Workforce education projects primarily provide services to entry-level, frontline employees of business and industry in Kentucky. Project participants must be individuals who lack sufficient mastery of workforce skills necessary to function successfully as workers.

Projects may include: workforce assessments, computer literacy, soft skills and workplace projects less than six hours. [Click here](#) to view the Workforce Alliance policy (pp. 9-10).

If you have questions regarding Workforce Alliance funding or workplace activities, please feel free to contact Jim Thompson at jim.thompson@ky.gov or 502-573-5114, ext. 112.

Upcoming reading and writing PD opportunities

Several exciting new PD opportunities have been developed to provide more in-depth training, a follow-up experience and time in between to reflect and apply new strategies.

Writing Institute for Kentucky Adult Educators

This CCLD institute is modeled after the Kentucky Writing Project, which lasted for four weeks and was successful in increasing the writing and instructional skills of K-12 teachers. The adult education version will be four days and will give instructors classroom application and peer discussion opportunities. Instructors will learn research-proven strategies to advance the beginning and struggling writer to prepare them for GED-level writing. The institute focuses on literacy and ABE level students.

Louisville: January 10 and 11 with follow-up dates on February 28 and March 13.

Richmond: May 22 and May 23 with follow-up dates on June 6 and July 11.

4 days = 5 PDUs

Reading Diagnostic Assessments

Go beyond the TABE to discover what may be affecting student reading comprehension. You will learn how to identify the specific skills students may lack so you can choose the most appropriate strategy. Tools will include the Adult Diagnostic Reading Inventory and the Adult Reading Components Study assessments.

Morehead: February 15 with a follow-up date March 14.

Prerequisite: Orientation to Reading and Writing or Foundations to Reading and Writing Instruction.

2 days = 5 PDUs

Instructional Strategies for the Struggling Reader: Literacy Level (3.9 and below)

Learn how to implement a structured program with literacy-level students. This workshop will be taught by William VanCleave, certified Orton-Gillingham trainer with expertise in learning disabilities. Participants will be provided with specific tools and strategies to begin and advance literacy-level students.

Bowling Green: February 7 and 8 with a follow-up date on March 28.

Prerequisite: Orientation to Reading and Writing or Foundations to Reading and Writing Instruction.

3 days = 5 PDUs

Instructional Strategies for the Struggling Reader: ABE/Pre-GED Level (8.9 and below)

Learn research-based strategies for advancing ABE students' reading levels. You will identify and practice specific strategies to increase the skills of students in the five components of reading: phonemic awareness, decoding, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension.

Lexington: February 21 and 22 with a follow-up April 11.

Louisville: March 6 and 7 with a follow-up April 25.

Prerequisite: Orientation to Reading and Writing or Foundations to Reading and Writing Instruction.

3 days = 5 PDUs

PD Connection fall edition

"Out of the Box and into a New Framework" is the theme of the latest [PD Connection newsletter](#).

Topics include GED prep tips, math curriculum recommendations, project-based learning, games for the classroom, using newspapers as an instructional resource and reading strategies. Adult educators are encouraged to read and use this quality resource!

EL/Civics online resource

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, has worked with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to develop [EL/Civics Online: Integrating EL/Civics into Adult ESL Classes](#).

From this Web site, adult educators have access to a free professional development opportunity that will help instructors incorporate EL/Civics into adult ESL classes. The Web site includes special tutorials on lesson planning and adapting materials and provides an “Information Center,” which allows instructors to keep lesson plans, reflections, links and resources in one convenient location.

GED update

Dr. B.J. Helton offers the following updates on GED issues. For more information on these topics, please contact her at (502) 573-5114, ext. 102, or BJ.Helton@ky.gov.

State-specific questions added to demographic form

Kentucky questions have been added to the GED demographic form, and test-taker responses print with the rest of the questions. These questions are very important for data analysis and release of information, so please help ensure students are answering them.

KYAE-6 GED testing application form

The application form is now on GED123.org. When the student creates a record and completes the demographic form, the pre-populated Application to Test form will print. The student will complete and sign the first page and obtain the necessary signatures on the second page. The student should enter a phone number in case there are any questions.

Instructional center codes

The instructional center code (OPT provider code) is now on GED123.org. The instructional center code allows analysis of programmatic data. The instructional center code is the six-digit code designating the program as a certifier of test readiness and approval to sign the KYAE-6 form. There was no space for the instructional center code when GED123.org began on July 1, 2007 and, therefore, six-month data for each program will not be available. Beginning January 1, the instructional center code must be entered. Inform the examiner if the examinee is retesting so the examiner knows to enter the instructional center code.

Kentucky testing misconduct policy

The Kentucky Testing Misconduct Policy now prints from GED123.org. The printed name of the examinee is pre-populated, but the examinee still needs to sign the form and take to the examiner along with other documents.

Adult education job opening

Franklin County Adult Education Director Peg Harmon is resigning, so her position is open effective January 1, 2008. More information about applying for the Franklin County director position is available on the school district's [Web site](#). Best wishes, Peg!

Paraeducator assessment FAQ

KYAE recently received the following question from a provider. Please remember to read the Frequently Asked Questions available on the KYAE [Web site](#). The FAQs have been recently updated with lots of new information. Click on Educators and then Frequently Asked Questions. If you have issues you'd like to have considered for inclusion in the FAQs, e-mail Janet.Hoover@ky.gov.

Q: Can a person take the paraeducator assessment more than three times?

A: The following is an excerpt from the [Kentucky Department of Education Web site](#): "The test-taker must correctly answer 28 out of 40 questions to pass the KPA. If a test-taker does not pass the KPA, she or he may retake the entire assessment 2 additional times (for a total of 3). There may be reasons for which a district makes an exception and allows the test-taker to take the test more than 3 times. The reason must be documented at the local level. The district or center may provide additional training for test-takers that do not pass the KPA." More information about paraeducator assessments is available at the link above.

Valuable links

The [National Commission on Adult Literacy](#) has released two new papers – [The Fiscal Consequences of Adult Educational Attainment](#), which studies the earnings of adults according to their level of education achievement; and [Challenges in Assessing for Postsecondary Readiness](#), which examines the major assessments in use today to determine student placement and measure adult learning gains.

Learning disabilities is the topic of a new issue of [Focus on Basics](#). Subjects include neurology, dyslexia, legal issues related to serving students with learning disabilities, addressing ESL student needs, technology, college transitions and changing practice at the program and classroom level.

The National Center for Family Literacy is accepting nominations for the [2008 Verizon Tech Savvy Awards](#). They are the first national awards to honor programs that improve parents' and children's understanding and use of technology. Four \$5,000 U.S. regional awards and one \$25,000 national award will be presented. The deadline for submissions is January 11, 2008.